MOTTRAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MOTTRAM, near Manchester.

February 22nd, 1895.

W. E. S. BURNETT,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1894.

To the Chairman and Gentlemen of the Urban District Council of Mottram.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Annual Report on the Sanitary condition of the District under your Authority, containing tables of statistics and cases of infectious diseases reported under the Notification Act, as required by the Local Government Board.

Population.

Census, 1891—3,270.

Birth-rate.

1. The total number of births registered for the year ending December 31st, 1894, was 72 (31 males and 41 females), being equivalent to a birth-rate of 22 per 1,000 of the population, as against 34·2 for the year 1893.

The following is the birth-rate for the last three years :—

Year	No. of births		Rate per 1,000		Population
1892.....	92	.....	28·1	.....	3,270
1893.....	112	.....	34·2	.....	3,270
1894.....	72	.....	22	.....	3,270

Death-rate.

2. The total number of deaths registered at all ages and from all causes during the year was 59, as against 77 for the previous year, and is equivalent to a death-rate of 18 per 1,000 persons living.

The following table shows the number of deaths and rate since 1891 :—

Year.	No. of deaths		Rate per 1,000		Population
1892.....	66	.....	20·1	.....	3,270
1893.....	77	.....	23·5	.....	3,270
1894.....	59	.....	18	.....	3,270

Mortality at all Ages.

3. Of the total number of deaths, 17 (including premature births) occurred to children under 1 year; 4 between 1 and 5; 3 between 15 and 25; 20 between 25 and 65; and 15 above 65 years.

The most satisfactory feature of the health of the district last year is the large decrease not only in the general death-rate, but also more particularly in that of infants under 1 year: 17 deaths only having occurred, as against 30 for the preceding year 1893.

Table (A), appended to this Report, shows in the first part the ages at which deaths occurred, and in the second the cause of death.

Table (B) the number of births, and new cases of infectious diseases reported under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act during the past year ending December 31st, 1894.

Zymotic Diseases.

4. The number of Infectious Diseases notified during the year was 15, viz.:—1 Croup, 1 Erysipelas, 2 Smallpox, 3 Scarlet Fever, and 8 Typhoid Fever; of which, the case of croup and 3 of the Typhoid Cases proved fatal. These, together with one fatal case of Whooping Cough, which is not scheduled as notifiable, make the death-rate for this class of disease equivalent to 1·5 per 1,000.

An isolated case of Croup and of Erysipelas occurred in January, both of which were investigated, but no insanitary defects found or other assignable cause to account for their origin.

Smallpox.

5. A rumour having reached me of a supposed case of Smallpox in Mottram Moor on the evening of May 1st, I investigated the matter the same night, when I found a second case in the same house. The following morning a telegraphic message was sent to the Medical Officer of the Hyde Infectious Hospital to send the ambulance van, and they were removed at noon the same day. I also instructed your Sanitary Inspector to thoroughly disinfect the house, clothes, and bedding with sulphur fumes the same afternoon. Two other persons that lived in the same house were quarantined by being kept from their employment until it was ascertained that all danger of infection was past. These measures appear to have effectually stamped out this loathsome disease, as no other cases occurred. These cases originated owing to these persons thoughtlessly visiting a relative in Hollingworth, who was employed at Colne, in Lancashire, and had come home suffering from the disease. As the disease was fully developed when he arrived here, in all probability he infected others with whom he travelled, and thus furnishes another instance of how infectious diseases are spread, and the difficulty in the way of tracing them.

Typhoid.

6. Of the eight cases of Typhoid notified, one was reported in May, two in September, one in October, one in November, and three in December. This disease was not limited to any part of the district, three of the cases occurring in Mottram, and five in the Broadbottom portion of the district. The first case of this disease occurred at Summerbottom in May last, and proved fatal, owing to intestinal hœmorrhage and perforation. This person was employed at Manchester, and came home with the disease upon him. This case was followed by a second one, two doors from the former, and I attribute the contagion in this instance to the former case in this block of cottages. In two other instances the men worked outside the district, and as there were no insanitary defects found about the dwellings, presumably they contracted the disease where they worked. In the remaining four cases there was nothing definite to account for the disease, except the usual neglected condition of the closets and middens.

Scarlet Fever.

7. Three cases of this disease occurred, all of a mild character, the first of which was in Mottram Moor, and its origin could not be traced. The two latter were undoubtedly contracted from some of the persons belonging to the stalls during the Wakes, who had come from Ashton, where the disease was prevalent at the time.

Isolation and Disinfection.

8. In all cases of infectious diseases the patients are isolated as far as possible, and the house, clothes, and bedding disinfected—disinfectants being supplied gratuitously. Healthy children residing in infected houses are prohibited from attending school or playing with other children until all possibility of their being able to infect others is past.

Water Supply.

9. The water supply has been abundant and good.

Noxious Trades.

10. There are no noxious trades or milkshops in the district, the milk being supplied from farms outside.

Middens.

11. A large number of the middens in connection with the closets in the district are very antiquated, being much too large, not watertight, and in wet weather are converted into cesspools of a very filthy character, the liquid portion from which is constantly oozing through the walls. These should be converted into dry middens, which are the most suitable for your district. In the construction of this class of midden, it is essential that the bottom should not be below the ground level, the floor and sides should be flagged or built of hard brick laid in cement or puddled clay, to prevent soakage into the surrounding soil; rain should be excluded by a roof, and adequate ventilation provided.

Emptying Middens.

12. This is still carried out in a very unsatisfactory manner, owing to there being no regular system. The emptying should be done at much shorter intervals than at present, and would be better done if the work was carried out by the Council.

Nuisance Removal.

13. For the purpose of the removal of nuisances, 18 notices have been served. These had reference principally to the removal of pigs and manure; the reconstruction of house drains where blocked or defective; the removal of cesspools; the alteration and improvement of closets; and emptying of middens. 19 slopstone pipes have also been disconnected, and proper traps and gullies put in. In addition, the Sanitary Inspector has taken 8 smoke observations, and notices have been served to abate the nuisance. He has also attended to a number of recurring nuisances of a minor character.

Inspections.

14. Inspections of the District have been made periodically by your Inspector and myself, including slaughter-houses, dwelling and lodging houses, dairies, &c., and particularly of those parts of the district that require most attention.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. E. S. BURNETT,

M. O. H.

Printed by the Chairman for the use of the Urban District Council.

REMARKS.